

Caleb Atwater to Andrew Jackson, February 29, 1828, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

CALEB ATWATER TO JACKSON.1

1 Atwater was a leading Clinton man in Ohio, who went over to Jackson when De Witt Clinton was no longer a presidential possibility. Clinton died Feb. 11.

Circleville, Ohio, February 29, 1828.

. . . . On the very afternoon, before he died, he wrote me a letter, urging me to go on for you. he said; "If you wish not to see a second reign of terror, support Gen. Jackson—if you wish for the restoration of pure, republican principles, support him—if you are a patriot, and love your country, support him. You have put your hand to the plow, and cannot look back. My advise to you is, to go on for him, decidedly, firmly and faithfully. I know not what causes of dissatisfaction you may have, for I have mine, but we must support Gen. Jackson, zealously, faithfully and efficiently. All the active republicans here, support him, and as to a reaction, it can never happen".

These were probably the last words he ever, wrote, because having finished that letter, in a conversation with his sons, he fell back in his chair, and in ten minutes, he was dead! The letter, I have, and if we ever meet again, you shall see it.

. . . . When the assaults of D[uff]. G[reen]. upon Gov. Clinton, gave umbrage to, and aroused indignation in a million of bosoms, Gov. Clinton, told us, to go on for General Jackson, who was in no way, accoun[t]able for the conduct of that man. . . .